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COUNTRY I

Iran

Iranian Army Policy toward the Tribes

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Tribal chiefs of Khurasan were invited to attend a marksmanship exercise conducted by the Iranian Army on 19 July 1950 in the vicinity of Meshed. At this function they were treated with unusual courtesy and deference, source states. In an address to the gathering, the Commander of the Khurasan Division of the Iranian Army called upon the tribal leaders to cooperate with the Government. The possibility of arming the tribes was not mentioned at this time.

- 2. On 25 August 1950 the Commander of the Isfahan Division of the Iranian Army proposed to the two chiefs of the northern and southern groups of the Bakhtiari tribes that they store arms and goods in the tribal strongholds, and establish garrisons in these regions. In addition, he proposed that the tribal leaders who were appointed governors of the Bakhtiari tribes should come within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior.
- 3. The Bakhtiari leaders agreed to accept these proposals under the following two conditions:
 - to discharge the responsibilities of the governorship.**
 - b. The I ranian Government would subsidize a small standing army of one thousand tribesmen who would enforce the governor's commands and suppress unrest without the assistance of the Army.
- 4. Following this conference, the Commander of the Isfahan Division departed to Tehran for the purpose of obtaining the consent of the Iranian Government to these conditions,

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* Comment. Previously the governors of the Bakhtiari tribes had paid all expenses in connection with the office from their own pockets.

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